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Subject: Comments on RETI

Hello. My name is Brendan Hughes and I attended the RETI meeting in Palm Desert, and I believe the Chairman of that meeting said that we could email comments we had at any time to you. If this is correct, thank you. If not, please tell me to whom I can direct my comments.

I have several comments about RETI. First, I would like to ask that RETI make an overall recommendation for energy CONSERVATION first and foremost, then energy efficiency, then local renewables, such as rooftop solar, and then distributed renewables on already disturbed lands. These should be the priorities of the state of California, as well as the power companies, and they need to be encouraged in every way possible to follow these. Even if RETI is essentially non-binding, an overall recommendation would be a step in the right direction.

Regarding disturbed lands, I hope that you have seen the following EPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/renewableenergyland/> This site gives information regarding Superfund sites that have renewable energy potential. These should be factored into the CREZs.

Also, I did not see several areas of formerly disturbed private lands listed in the CREZs. These areas, which have especially high potential for utility-scale solar, are former agricultural lands in the Antelope Valley, former agricultural lands between interstates 15 and 40, near Daggett, and former agricultural lands along the margins of the Imperial Valley. These are just three areas that I have personally come across that have a great potential for solar resources, and they are already disturbed lands. RETI should not be encouraging the destruction of desert habitat so that companies willing to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on a project can save a few million by building on BLM land. These companies need to be told that this is unacceptable while already impacted lands are idle.

Finally, I have a question. I would like to know where the 90 new miles of transmission that RETI has proposed (as opposed to the designation of existing corridors) will be.

Thank you very much.
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